Use of Nimesulide

2670. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drug Nimesulide, a pain killer has been reported to be very much prone to liver, kidney toxicity and renal failure and the same drug is banned by the FDA of USA, even the premier institutions of India like AIIMS, New Delhi have discarded its use; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to stop its manufacturing by the pharmaceutical companies in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Nimesulide, is a non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory analgesic which is indicated in the treatment of Osteoarthritis, post-operative trauma, sport injuries, acute dental pain. Nimesulide is an off-Patent drug and is being marketed in many countries by number of companies.

As per information made available by AIIMS, New Delhi Nimesulide like any other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (pain killer) has some side effects including injuries to the liver and kidney but these occur only in some patients who are given the drug continuously for a couple of days or given in high doses. These side effects are however not more than those seen with other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs like declofenac or piroxicam etc. It is therefore continued to be used at the AIIMS with caution for appropriate indications.

Nimesulide has never been marketed in USA therefore the question of its alleged ban in USA does not arise.

(b) Does not arise, in view of 'A' above.

Fake Asthama Medicines

2671. SHRI SUNIL SHASTRI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of growing cases of duplicate or bogus medicines in the field of Asthama involving Bathini Mrigasira Trust (BMT) which has been dispensing free fishfherbal medicines for the past four generations;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to make strict laws to curb such practice; and